

Committee on Finance—S. E. Latta, J. J. Tully, H. E. Sanderson.

Trustees—J. G. Thompson, H. W. Taggart, D. F. Ray.

Delegates to State Society—R. R. Hammond, J. P. Hull, Alternates—A. W. Hoisholt, H. E. Sanderson.

No further business appearing, the society adjourned.
R. B. KNIGHT, Sec. Pro. Tem.

PUBLICATIONS.

Progressive Medicine, December, 1907. A Quarterly Digest of Advances, Discoveries and Improvements in the Medical and Surgical Sciences. Edited by Hobart Amory Hare, M. D., Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, assisted by H. R. M. Landis, M. D., Assistant Physician to the Out-Patient Medical Department of the Jefferson Medical College Hospital. Six dollars per annum. Lea Brothers & Co., publishers, Philadelphia and New York.

The Practice of Obstetrics. By American Authors. Edited by Charles Jewett, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Long Island College Hospital, New York. Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Illustrated. Lea Brothers & Co., New York and Philadelphia. 1907.

I shall speak of the merits of the work first and then of its demerits, even at the risk of leaving a bad last impression in the mind of the reader. At the outset I was very much predisposed in its favor from what I knew of the reputation of Dr. Jewett.

I started to read this book through and very soon began to wonder why the author was duplicating his previous statements. When I reached the chapter on eclampsia it seemed somehow very familiar and I began to think. I took down a copy of Edgar and saw a clear parallelism. It seemed strange that two men could agree so closely in thought and style. Further on I read the chapter on septicaemia and I could almost imagine that I was following Williams; the arrangement was almost identical, and then I turned to the preface and I found that the volume was nothing but a disconnected lot of essays by prominent men, each of whom has better expressed his ideas in another place.

This is not the fault of Dr. Jewett, nor perhaps altogether of the publishers, who are keen business men and presumably aware of what the American physician is willing to pay for. But the result is that our medical literature is not thereby elevated. Beautiful single volumes, as this, are produced to sell; and, when too late, the purchaser finds that they are a rehash of other works or essays edited by some man of prominence. Occasionally a small book will be published with borrowed cuts—for cuts cost money—written by one man, who tries to cover a large field in one condensed volume.

Our American books are on too good paper and too expensively bound for their short life and I personally long for the time to come when we can get them unbound and uncut like the German and French works, each an exhaustive treatise on some limited subject, with special cuts and all extraneous matter eliminated.

This compilation of Dr. Jewett's is no better, nor is it worse, than many others, and its value is equal

to one divided by all other such books now on the market.

It is well printed and bound. I only noted one typographical error where, on page 444, the inter cristal measurement is called the inter-costal. It has 37 reduced cuts from the work of Farabeuf and Varnier, and has also used many of the expressions found therein.

The book has excellent chapters on eclampsia, toxæmia, artificial feeding, post partem and placental hemorrhages and muscles of the perineum. The views advanced on episiotomy, the use of ergot and acetic acid in hemorrhage, nitro-glycerin in eclampsia, delivery of the posterior shoulder first, personal use of the patheter, etc., appeal to me as being exactly right.

But I do not think that the perineum should be excluded from a part in labor, nor that the ovary causes menstruation, nor that urea is a valueless test of excretion. Neither do I like to have pressure on the head through the perineum extolled nor traction in the axilla advocated. The advice given to wait four to six hours before putting the child to the breast is not good. There are some other matters that I cannot agree with, but I should not contrast my experience with that of the writers.

Nothing is said of the use of hyocine in labor nor of pubiotomy. The necessity of "chin front" in face presentations is not impressed, nor do I think the pushing of the cord to one side in breech cases even mentioned. Again, from all stated to the contrary, one might do a version hours after the end of the first stage. The relative frequency of multiple births is ignored. Of the obliquities of the head in flat pelvis, Nagale's only is mentioned, and very little said of the conservation of the transverse position in such cases.

As was to be expected in a compilation, the book abounds with reduplications, which in many instances do not agree. One man advocates ligating the maternal end of the cord, the other does not. One considers urea a "fairly reliable index" of excretion, the other says it "has been shown to be of little value." Nursing, rigid cervix, haematoma vulvae, abortion, pelvic measurements and placental detachment are all treated twice in more or less extensive articles.

There are ten and a half pages on symphesiectomy, now nearly again fallen into desuetude, and just a half page on pubiotomy. There are twenty-one pages in one place and seven in another on monstrosities, all out of proportion to more important subjects. About four pages are devoted to uterine inversion, its causes, diagnosis and treatment in extenso, one of the rarest of accidents.

Ophthalmia neonatorum is only superficially touched upon and one of its symptoms given is "pain in the eye." Just how we are to gain this knowledge from the little sufferer is not explained. Embriotomy is not correctly defined on page 750. Some of the authors use the metric system and others give the measurements in inches, and this, too, in a third edition of the work.

I have tried to be fair and not unjust in my review. I have endeavored to eliminate any personal bias from every statement. The isolated essays have the merit that the authors' names would lead us to expect and it is with the compilation as a whole that I am displeased. It but adds one more to the already too numerous volumes of this class now on the market. The compilation is not improved by the divergent views expressed by the contributors and has lost the unity and system that the work of one man assures. Any one of them could write a better book and several of them have done so.
R. C.